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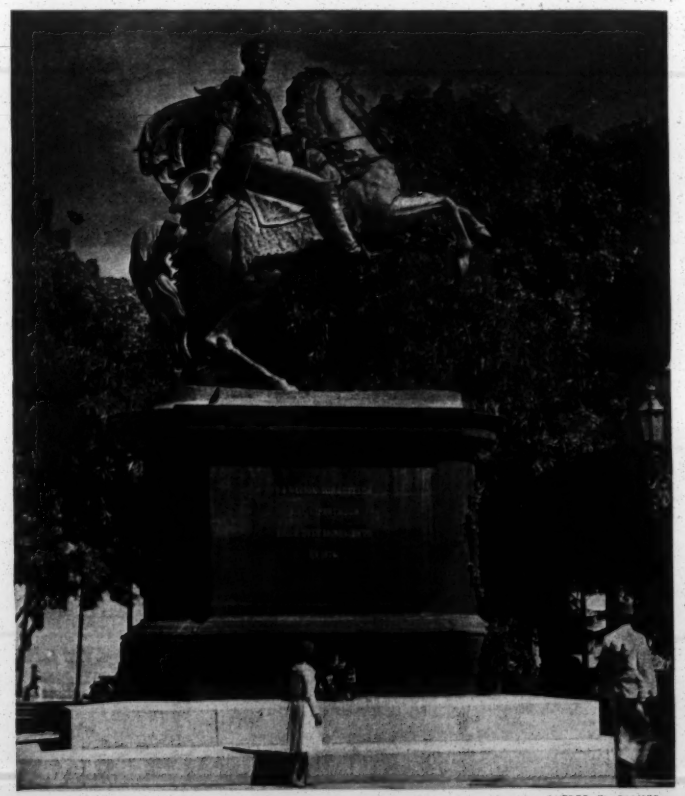

ALFRED T. PALMER

ALOFT ON HIS REARING CHARGER, VENEZUELA'S HERO, BOLÍVAR, SURVEYS HIS NATIVE CITY

Wreaths on this monument to Simón Bolívar in the Plaza Bolívar, Caracas, indicate the affection of his people for their foremost hero, who led the fight for freedom of the lands which are now the republics of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and his native Venezuela (Bulletin No. 3).

Bulletin No. 1, January 3, 1949

War's Tide Again Surges Toward Nanking

YEARS of boom, with intervening periods of adversity, have given life in Nanking a hectic tempo in the past two decades. Once again the Chinese capital has been threatened as communist armies swarm southward.

Nanking has been the seat of the nation's government eight different times. Its location near the south bank of the Yangtze in populous east-central China, 200 miles from the river's mouth, is important both in peace and war. For 20 centuries it has been the scene of violence and destruction many times. In 1853, the Taiping rebels destroyed nearly all the national monuments and public buildings, as well as much of the ancient wall. In 1937, Japanese invaders brutally ravaged the city.

Enmeshed in a Network of Trade Routes

One of the longest, widest, and highest city walls in much-walled China stretches for 28 miles around Nanking. It encloses an area somewhat smaller than the District of Columbia.

The wall reaches south to encircle the dense heart of the city five miles inland from the river. Hsiakuan, the river-port section, lies just outside the wall. Ferries ply the Yangtze to Pukow, southern terminus of government rail lines leading north to Peiping, Tientsin, and Tsingtao. Railroad, highway, and river carry trade with Shanghai, 106 miles southeast.

Long known as Ginling, the community gained its massive wall and its present name under the Ming dynasty, in 1368. Americans now living can remember when the city was known as Nankeen, source of the yellowish cloth called by that name.

Nanking, meaning "southern capital," was the city of Sun Yat-sen. In 1928, when it was chosen capital of the 17-year-old Chinese Republic, Peking ("northern capital") became Peiping ("northern plain").

Scene of Japanese Surrender

In 1928, Nanking had 300,000 inhabitants and virtually no lighting and sewage systems. Water was sold in the streets by the caskful. The 1930's saw great development. More than a million people were living in the city when evacuation began before the Japanese attack of December, 1937. Nanking had become China's most progressive metropolis. Wide, well-lighted streets and buildings of concrete and steel (illustration, inside cover) had been constructed; water flowed from household taps.

The bombing and sinking of the U.S.S. *Panay* was an incident of the Japanese assault on Nanking. The subtractions of evacuation and the additions of occupation left the capital with 650,000 residents when the Japanese signed surrender papers at Nanking in September, 1945.

Nanking's population, steadily increasing since the war's end, is again well past the million mark. Comparatively untouched by China's continuing civil war, the city has boomed with the building of dwellings to house the great numbers of clerks brought in to man new government

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER APRIL 27, 1943, POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879.
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W. ROBERT MOORE

BROAD AVENUES AND MODERN BUILDINGS OF NANKING'S CIVIC CENTER BELIE THE CITY'S TWENTY CENTURIES OF HISTORY

Rickshas, horse-drawn carriages, and automobiles divide the transportation chores of Nanking, China's threatened capital (Bulletin No. 1). The buildings surrounding this civic center vary in architectural style from the classic columned Greek to unadorned modern. Few public buildings survived the destruction of the Taiping rebels who sacked Nanking nearly a century ago. From the center of the hedge-rimmed circle a statue of Sun Yat-sen gazes down on his fellow countrymen.

Both cow's milk and goat's milk.

Bulletin No. 2, January 3, 1949

Americans Leave Impress on Lebanon

THE recent meeting in Lebanon of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), attended by many American delegates, served to strengthen and renew the ties between that eastern Mediterranean country and the United States.

American educators, missionaries, doctors, scientists, and manufacturers have left their mark on ancient Lebanon, only Near East country with a sizable Christian population. Many young men and women have been taught by Americans and have learned to use American products (illustration, next page). Ice-cream parlors long since took Beirut (Beyrouth), the capital, by storm. Beirut was the site of the UNESCO conference.

More than Half Christian

Also, the Lebanese have kept in touch with the United States by corresponding with relatives who have emigrated to this country.

Lebanon, considerably smaller than Connecticut, adjoins Palestine and the new state of Israel to the north. Today, as it did when the Phoenicians sailed from its ancient ports of Sidon and Tyre, the small mountain-draped land sloping toward the Mediterranean serves as a doorway to the Western world from the deserts of the East. Accenting this vestibule character, its population is divided. About 600,000 of its 1,050,000 inhabitants are Christians. The rest are Mohammedans.

Replacing Sidon and Tyre, now shrunk to comparative insignificance, are the ports of Beirut and Tripoli, farther north on the coast. Teeming Beirut, with nearly a quarter-million people, has a duty-free zone for transshipping. Tankers predominate in the harbor of Tripoli, terminus of a pipeline from the oilfields of Iraq.

Poised between mountain and sea, Beirut, with its artificial harbor, is a triumph of man over nature. Red sand has been "nailed down" with pine trees. Banana groves spread along the sea. Drinking water has been piped in from a mountain source.

American University at Beirut

In Beirut and the rest of Lebanon, the people speak Arabic. Literacy is the highest in the Near and Middle East, and all classes inject forceful phrases of French, English, and other tongues into the language of the Koran. At the capital's memorial to Lebanese soldiers who died in World War I, veiled Moslem and unveiled Christian women clasp hands in common sorrow.

Located at Beirut is the time-honored American University and there also is a French Jesuit university, each with courses in medicine, engineering, and law. At the American University, some 2,400 students, representing 38 nationalities, carry on a "perpetual peace conference in the interests of international good will."

Eastward from Beirut to Damascus, capital of Syria, is but 50 airline miles. The Lebanon range, lying in the way, averages 6,000 to 7,000 feet above sea level and rises to 10,131 feet at its highest point. Automobiles

bureaus. In addition, flimsily built refugee villages have sprung up outside the guarded wall.

The Porcelain Tower, Lotus Lake, Purple Mountain, and Sun Yat-sen's tomb, Nanking's foremost landmarks, lie outside the city gates. The Porcelain Tower, built in the 15th century, was considered the most beautiful pagoda in this land of pagodas. The Taipings destroyed it. Only its bronze cupola remains, a huge inverted bowl outside the South Gate.

Outside the East Gate, Purple Mountain is a memorial ground comparable to Washington's Arlington National Cemetery. Crowning its slopes, and approached by 500 marble steps, are the Memorial Hall and the blue-tiled mausoleum of Sun Yat-sen, founder of the modern republic. Contributions from Chinese in America helped toward their construction.

Through most of the 1937-45 occupation of Nanking by the Japanese, China was governed from Chungking, 1,000 miles up the Yangtze. Chungking and Canton, the latter 700 airline miles southwest of Nanking, offer likely retreats in the current crisis.

NOTE: Nanking is shown in the National Geographic Society's map of China. Write the Society, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For further information, see "Along the Yangtze, Main Street of China," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1948; and "The Rise and Fall of Nanking," February, 1938.* *(Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.)*

A NANKING DAIRY MAKES A THREE-WAY BID FOR CUSTOMERS

Presenting rather the effect of a child's A B C book, the whitewashed walls of this dairy in Nanking inform the public, in Chinese, English, and in the universal language of pictures, that they have for sale both cow's milk and goat's milk.

Venezuela's New Rulers Control Rich Nation

VENEZUELA, first South American nation to secure freedom from Spain (in 1829), has not yet made up its mind what type of government it wants. Its history has been punctuated with tyranny, dictatorship, and revolution. The latest upset was the November overthrow of President Rómulo Gallegos and his government by an army group.

The military rulers, who have promised to hold elections as soon as conditions are settled, control one of the world's most richly endowed nations. Gold and diamonds from the Guiana Highlands, pearls from Margarita Island, rubber and orchids from the Orinoco jungles, and oil from Maracaibo add up to immense natural resources.

Venezuela Pearls Adorned Queen Isabella

However, except for its oil, Venezuela has done little to exploit its mineral wealth. Oil has been big business only during the past 35 years. Gold-mining operations are confined to two large companies, but it is believed that as many as 20,000 individuals earn a living by independent panning of gold.

Pearls have been brought up from the Margarita oyster beds since the days of the *conquistadors*. Queen Isabella of Spain wore Margarita pearls—a fitting return for the jewels she pawned to finance Columbus.

Mercury, copper, lead, sulphur, mica, and asbestos have been produced in small quantities. Venezuela has a pitch lake of 1,000 acres near the Gulf of Paria—off which lies Trinidad—rivaling the famous asphalt lake of that British island.

Shaped like a clover leaf, Venezuela is wedged between Colombia on the west and British Guiana on the east. Its middle leaflet rounds into Brazil's Amazon Valley to the south. With an area of about 352,000 square miles, it is larger than Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada combined.

Bolívar's Birthplace a Tourist Mecca

Caracas, the capital and largest city, lies in a valley south of the coast range (illustration, next page). It is seven airline miles from La Guaira, its port; 23 miles by the highway which zigzags over the mountain. Its 380,000 residents represent nearly a tenth of the country's population.

Founded about 1567, Caracas combines the atmosphere of a typical Spanish colonial city with modern architectural styles. Lacking much of the "gingerbread" characteristic of New World Spanish structures, the dignified old buildings harmonize with the severely modern ones that 20th century oil wealth has built. Of special interest to visitors are the cathedral and the house where Simón Bolívar, liberator of six Latin American countries (illustration, cover), was born.

Maracaibo, on the northwest shore of the lake whose name it bears, is the center of the nation's oil industry. In two decades it grew from a sleepy village to a thriving industrial city of 150,000. Maracaibo is also the shipping point for the coffee which is Venezuela's most profitable agricul-

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cross on good roads in two hours. Lebanon is well established as the summer Switzerland of the torrid Near East, and its reputation moves ahead with construction of new mountain resorts and an $8,000,000 roadbuilding program.

Opposition to the French mandate, set up in 1920, brought Christian Lebanon with Moslem Syria into the Arab League. In 1941, when Germany threatened the Arab countries, British and Free French troops entered Syria and Lebanon, and their complete independence from Vichy France was proclaimed.

For four wartime years, British ski troops trained in the high coastwise range among the Cedars of Lebanon, joint heirs of the ages with California's giant sequoias. With the declaration of war on Germany and Japan in 1945, Lebanon and Syria became members of the United Nations. Their status as independent republics became complete with the withdrawal of the last French troops late in 1946.

NOTE: Lebanon is shown on the Society's map of Bible Lands and the Cradle of Western Civilization.

For additional information, see "Syria and Lebanon Taste Freedom," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1946; "American Alma Maters in the Near East," August, 1942*; and "Change Comes to Bible Lands," December, 1938.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, October 27, 1947, "Oil Line May Revive Sidon's Ancient Trade."

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

LEBANON'S CHRISTIANS READ THE BIBLE IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE KORAN

Here a printer at the American University Press, in Beirut, examines sheets of a Christian pamphlet. The press distributes Bibles and translations of such novels as "Ben Hur" and "Robinson Crusoe" to the entire Arabic world. The Arabic alphabet of 28 characters is used more widely over the world than any alphabet except the Latin.

Caves Studied for Art, A-Bomb Shelters

THE mysterious recesses of the earth have long fascinated both adventurous boys (illustration, next page) and cave scientists, or speleologists. The latter group seeks wall art and other relics left by prehistoric man. Several of their almost unbelievable finds in caves of southern France were photographed in color by Maynard Owen Williams for the December, 1948, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*.

Lately, caverns are getting attention from other sources also. United States Army and Navy authorities, advised by underground experts, have been making extensive study of the many caves that underlie areas in most of the 48 states. To recent suggestions, however, that the underground cavities of the world might offer easy protection against atomic or bacteriological warfare, the answers are pessimistic.

Man-made Caves Saved Chungking

Because of remoteness, dampness, and hazardous formations, most natural caves surveyed in the last eight years are suitable only for storage, an Army Map Service spokesman has declared. But whatever their future value, caves and mines had a role in World War II. From the Far East to western Europe, men used them for personal and industrial shelter, as well as for essential storage space.

China's wartime capital, Chungking, was noted for its vast system of new and old tunnels piercing the surrounding hills. From these rocky labyrinths, equipped with seats and lights, the city's population of hundreds of thousands kept civic life going through years of relentless Japanese bombing.

Arms and ammunition, blankets and clothing were turned out in many a deep hole elsewhere in China. One of these, "The Cave of the Cyclones" in the mountainous interior, was an expanded natural cavern which held a three-story aircraft factory, a clubhouse, dormitories, and a hospital.

Two of the world's most heavily bombed spots, the English Channel port of Dover and the British Mediterranean isle of Malta, made lifesavers of old catacombs. Many children sheltered beneath the white cliffs of Dover remembered no other home. In Malta's network of under-rock corridors, dating from Crusaders' times, the islanders found protection for their airplanes, their meager supplies of food, and their lives.

Germany Dug In

Athens hid priceless statuary from the Acropolis in near-by caves on the site of the "Prison of Socrates." An art gallery of old Dutch masters was carefully preserved in a cavern formed by a sandstone quarry near Maastricht.

As Allied air attacks mounted, the Germans dug in on a major scale. In addition to the many German and Austrian underground installations, a Messerschmitt plant was discovered in ancient galleries of the hills of Budapest. Flying bombs to be launched against England were produced in secret caves of eastern France.

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tural export. So much of the land is devoted to crops for the foreign market that the cost of living is high.

About five per cent of Venezuela's people are of pure Spanish stock; 10 per cent are Negro; 40 per cent Indian; and the remaining 45 per cent are mestizos, a mixture. Spanish is the language of the republic.

Venezuela includes much of that section of South America's Caribbean coast which was known as the Spanish Main. Spanish interest in the region dates from Columbus. There, in 1498, the "First Admiral" had his first view of the mainland of South America. The next year, Alonso de Ojeda and Amerigo Vespucci named the area Venecia (Little Venice) because the huts of the native Indians, set on stilts in the shallow nearshore waters of Lake Maracaibo, reminded them of Venice.

A number of Venezuelan cities are older than any in the United States. One coastal town—Cumana—was the first permanent settlement on the South American continent. It was established in 1520, a century before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth.

NOTE: Venezuela is shown on the Society's map of South America.

For further information, see "Caracas, Cradle of the Liberator," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for April, 1940; "I Kept House in a Jungle," January, 1939; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, October 25, 1948, "Spirit of Gran Colombia Lives Again"; and "Venezuela, Farming Nation That Struck Oil, Changes Governments," November 12, 1945.

LUIS MARDEN

SHARP GREEN RIDGES BUTTRESS THE MOUNTAIN WALLS THAT ENCIRCLE CARACAS

The position of Caracas, 3,000 feet above sea level, gives the city a moderate climate in spite of the fact that it lies only 11 degrees north of the Equator. In the foreground gleam the buildings of the tuberculosis sanitarium, one project in a $100,000,000 public-works program, which also includes new highways, schools, housing, and agricultural experiment stations.

Bulletin No. 5, January 3, 1949

Vienna Coffeehouses Stage Postwar Revival

THE Austrian peace treaty may be unsigned, the future uncertain, and food, fuel, and clothing scarce, but the people of Vienna can at least talk things over once again in the city's famous coffeehouses. These sociable institutions are reported coming to life again now that coffee has been taken off ration lists.

The friendly Viennese custom of gathering to discuss social, business, or political affairs over a cup of coffee dates from 1683. By that date, London had taken enthusiastically to the stimulating new drink from the East. According to its sponsor, coffee would quicken the spirits and was "good against sore eyes."

A Pole First to Serve the Eastern Beverage

In Vienna, the first coffeehouse appeared in the wake of a national emergency. Involved in its story are such allied subjects as a siege, a victory, and a hero. The siege was laid by the Turks in 1683. The victory that turned them back from the city was achieved with the aid of Sobieski, John III of Poland.

The hero of the coffee story also was a Pole in Austrian service, one Kolschitzky. Discovering a bag of strange brown beans left behind by the retreating Turks, Kolschitzky learned how to make an appetizing brew with them. He set up a restaurant in which he sold his "black soup" to customers whose appreciation brought them back again and again for more of the specialty.

In time, Vienna's *kaffeeklatsch*—originally meaning a ladies' afternoon coffee party—became a phrase known around the world. More and more coffeehouses sprang up. They influenced important national affairs as well as purely "social" life. Each group of politicians, musicians, businessmen, writers, and artists had its favorite meeting place, large or small, plain or fancy.

Were Much Like Clubs

These "cafés" (whose name, incidentally, is the French word for coffee) were more than merely places to sip coffee—steaming black or topped with blobs of whipped cream—while gossip, compliments, and even political plots were tossed about. Tutors met their pupils and gave instruction over rolls and coffee (illustration, next page). The coffeehouses were centers where current news was gathered and spread. There the world's leading newspapers and magazines were provided for the patrons; there friends met for games of chess, billiards, bridge, or dominoes. They had many of the characteristics of a club.

Vienna's coffeehouses survived wars, hard times, and strikes. They revived after the turbulent inflation period of the early 1920's that closed many restaurants.

In a city like Vienna, with a long and varied history, members of the "kaffeeklatsch" have never lacked subjects of conversation, pleasant or tragic. The Congress of Vienna met in 1814 in one of the most brilliant

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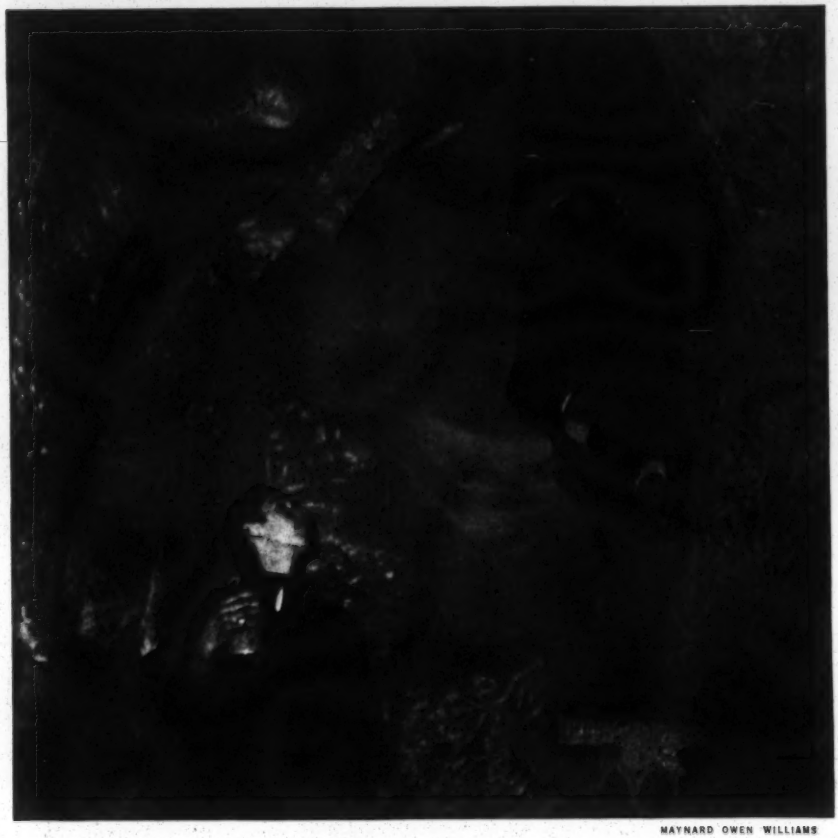
Salt and copper mines of Germany and Austria gave up enormous collections of art and other treasures looted from conquered countries or removed from Germany's own museums and castles for safekeeping.

Here and there, as recently reported around Naples, people are still living in the caves in which they found wartime refuge. And inside Sweden's granite mountains, subterranean factories continued operations after the war on the grounds of efficiency and lower expense for heat and other maintenance.

NOTE: For further information, see "Lascaux Cave, Cradle of World Art," with 11 color photographs, in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1948; and "China's Great Wall of Sculpture," March, 1938*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 17, 1947, "Carlsbad Caverns, Magic Under New Mexico"; "Wind Cave, Where Buffaloes Remember the Past," January 6, 1947; "Mammoth Cave: Wonderland Underground," October 21, 1946; and "'Extinct' Strandloopers Found in Africa," October 25, 1948.



MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

FRENCH SCHOOLBOYS ON A LARK SLITHERED THROUGH THIS HOLE TO DISCOVER LASCAUX CAVE'S GALLERY OF PREHISTORIC ART

They found, on the walls and ceiling, scene after scene of paintings made 20,000 years ago showing horses, bulls, ponies, bison, deer, and their human hunters. Now guarded as a national treasure of France, Lascaux Cave is opened only to such accredited visitors as Maynard Owen Williams of the National Geographic staff, who descended this "parrot ladder" to photograph the amazing paintings in color.

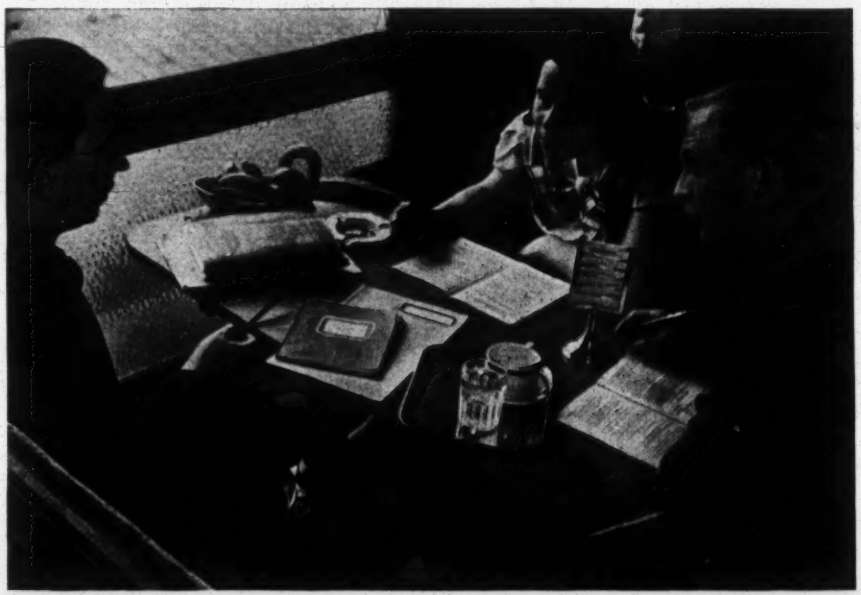
assemblages ever seen in Europe. World War I left a starving city, capital and economic center of a nation which had been reduced to little more than one-fourth of its former size. Vienna's fabulous "glamour" was a vanished legend.

As the city slowly rebuilt, it was further reduced to the status of a provincial capital of Germany after the Nazis absorbed Austria in 1938. Today, again on the losing side in a world war, the battered but gradually reviving city is divided between the occupation zones of the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union.

NOTE: Vienna may be located on the Society's map of Europe and the Near East.

For additional information, see "What I saw Across the Rhine," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1947; "A Tale of Three Cities," December, 1945; and "This Was Austria," July, 1945*.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 23, 1948, "New Fields Near Vienna Supply Austrian Oil."



KURT AND MARGOT LUBINSKI

OVER A TABLE IN A VIENNA COFFEEHOUSE, CONVERSATION FLOWS EASILY

Away from the formality of the schoolroom, a teacher helps his pupils to polish up their English. Relaxing over rolls and coffee in the hospitable atmosphere of the clublike coffeehouse, they find duty a pleasure, and pronunciation problems are happily ironed out.

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